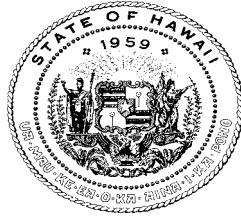


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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
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November 16, 2005

**Minutes of the October 27, 2005
South Kona – Ka’ū Coastal Conservation Task Force Meeting
(Revision II)**

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The first meeting of the Task Force was convened at approximately 5:30 p.m. in the Pāhala Community Center in Pāhala. Including the following members of the Task Force, there were about 60 people present: Pele Hanoa, Keola Hanoa, Earl Louis, Ron Self, Jamie Moana Kawauchi, David Kawauchi, Kai Markell, Tommy Ishimaru, Vern Yamanaka, Gil Kahele, Peter Simmons, Josh Stanbro, John Replogle, Chris Manfredi, Guy Enriques, Marge Elwell, Julia Neal, Frank Hays, Mary Lou Kobayashi, Ed Olson, Chris Yuen, Charles Nahale, Lawrence Terlep, Dan Quinn, and Lauren Tanaka. Others present were from the general public who were interested in the subject area and the Task Force.

Pele Hanoa gave the opening pule and Dan Quinn, temporary Chair of the Task Force, conducted the meeting. Dan Quinn started by explaining to the group that the purpose of this meeting was to have the Task Force members meet each other and share the issues, concerns and particular interests relative to the objectives outlined in HCR 5. Representative Robert Herkes thanked the members for serving on the Task Force and said it is “the first step to save valuable coastal lands in South Kona and Ka’ū. Both he and Senator Russell Kokubun intend to leave the process up to the people of the Task Force. “You do it. We don’t want to be involved...”, and encouraged the members to provide the recommendations to save coastal areas to the Legislature. Representative Herkes and Senator Kokubun left the meeting, “so as not to influence the discussion”.

To facilitate the discussion, the seating was arranged so that people sat facing each other in a circle. For their introduction, each person explained their relationship to the Task Force and what it meant for them.

Ron Self, Attorney, said he has a ranch in Wood Valley and spends most of his time as an Attorney, including his work with the Ka’ū Preservation organization, which, he said, would like to preserve the entire coast. Ron would like a study to identify the resources in the area that will need protection.

Earl Louis, resident of Punalu’u. Earl said he would like to save all of the Ka’ū coastline for future generations. (Lauren tells us he is very knowledgeable about the shoreline areas and coastal resources in Punalu’u and the adjacent ahupua’a.)

Keola Hanoa, said she is a teacher of ahupua’a lifestyles and has property in Punalu’u and near South Point.

Pele Hanoa, Keola's mother, said she has lived in Ka'ū all her life. (Lauren said she is a member of the Hawai'i Island Burial Council.)

Jamie Moana Kawauchi, retired from OHA, resident of Nā'ālehu, said that the Ka'ū coast is very dear to her. "We are interested in preserving what we have and being very intellectual as to how we do it. We need to define the project area as there are places that do not have representation by any member. Perhaps we can combine ilis and have 1 representative from each of the ahupua'a."

David Kawauchi, Jamie's husband, said he was born and raised in Hilo and has lived in Ka'ū with Jamie and their children since 1972. David said he would like to see Ka'ū protected, especially the shoreline.

Kai Markell, born and raised on Kaua'i, is employed by OHA and works on policy issues for the advocacy of lands for the Hawaiians and cultural and historic preservation with special attention to burial sites.

Tommy Ishimaru, has property in Ka'ū that he "has put aside for community support" and has been working towards getting permits from the Planning Dept. He has been talking with Rep. Herkes, members of the County Council to develop a proposal to provide a facility that would most benefit the Ka'ū community.

Vern Yamanaka shared that since 1980 he has managed 20,00 acres of Ka'ū coastline which is makai of Oceanview and includes Pōhue Bay. His involvement is in resource management and planning.

Gil Kahele, born in Miloli'i, has been involved with the protection of land and the Hawaiian culture since 1980 and represents Pa'a Pono Miloli'i.

Peter Simmons, Land Manager for Kamehameha Schools, who owns 1000's of acres in Ka'ū, is concerned about the stewardship of "our inheritance" and their commitment to helping the Hawaiian community.

Josh Stanbro, representing the Trust for Public Land, commutes frequently from Honolulu to Ka'ū as he has been working with the community on a project to acquire the lands in Honu'apo, including the fishpond.

John Replogle, is employed by the Nature Conservancy. John's real thing is that he grew up in Ka'u and wants to see its coastline protected. John feels that the area is the last open space left in Hawai'i and the most beautiful. It is a great asset that needs protection.

Chris Manfredi, is a Ka'ū resident and landowner. He controls a group of companies that bought or has contracted to buy approximately 6,000 acres in Ka'ū. As a major landowner in the district, he feels it is important to be represented. Chris started coming to Ka'ū since 2002 and recently moved to Nā'ālehu. He said he has a tremendous respect for the area and wants to help preserve "the history, beauty, and magic".

Brenda Iokepa Moses, said she is a resident of Ka'ū and works for Big Island Ventures, a large landowner. She said she is concerned with keeping the coastline preserved.

Guy Enriques, resident of Punalu'u, grew up along the Ka'ū coast and said he would like to preserve the coast.

Marge Elwell, a Director of Nā'ālehu Main Street program, said she lived on Maui when it was "pre-resort". She said she would hate to see what happened on Maui to happen in Ka'ū.

Frank Hays, Regional Director for the National Park Service, offered the assistance of his office in education about preservation techniques such as the National Seashore and Heritage areas.

Mary Lou Kobayashi is with the State Office of Planning. She shared that her father was born in Pāhala and that she was asked to provide map resources for the meeting. She brought with her maps of the project area on which were several different layers of information, lava flow hazard areas, current zoning designations, endangered species, and designated parcels with landowners.

Ed Olson said he is a substantial landowner in Ka'ū and has been in Hawai'i for 46 years, with holdings on the Big Island for the last 16 years. Ed said he is concerned about preservation as is everyone else in this room. (Julia Neal tells us that he is not a full time Hawai'i resident).

Chris Yuen, Hawai'i County Planning Director, said his father was also born in Pāhala (brother of Mary Lou), and that he has been working towards the goals of preservation since he was 19 years old, when he started a petition to have the County purchase the land for Richardson beach park and another beach park in Hilo. He said he would help the Task Force understand the current land use regulations for the coastal areas of South Kona and Ka'ū.

Lauren Tanaka expressed to the group that her role is helping to organize and facilitate the task force meetings.

Dan Quinn informed the group that State Parks interest included the South Kona Wilderness Area established by the Legislature and clarified that the sunset date for the Task Force is the end of the 2007 legislative session. the task force has time to provide the 2006 Legislature with a preliminary statement and will follow with a more definitive report to the 2007 Legislature.

Ron Self said there is a substantial number of endangered species along the Ka'ū coast. He noted that a monk seal was seen and filmed in a place where no monk seals had been seen there before. He said he would like a new study to be conducted of the endangered species.

Keola Hanoa asked whether the membership of the Task Force will be limited to those in attendance. "My concern is that there is no one representing Honomalino, a very large district with numerous cultural resources. We need more of the cultural practitioners on board who utilize the area. At Pōhue and other beaches, there are fishermen who are out there 24/7. There are very few Hawaiians on the Task Force". She said she would like fishermen, cultural resource people and cultural practitioners from each of the areas along the Ka'ū coast to be invited to be on the Task Force. "Every area in the 80 miles (of coastline) should be represented. If we are going to do an articulate plan, and it is a very big undertaking, it is 80 miles. Not having areas represented would make the job difficult". She recommended that the Task Force be expanded and that the Task Force elect a Chair after the final membership is determined.

Dan Quinn cautioned the group saying that the Task Force is the largest he HAS seen and if it is too large, it might be that they cant get anything done. He also said that public meetings could be held to gather information. Keola Hanoa responded by saying that it is important that every community (in the project area) be represented. Bottom up type of planning is what we need, not top down planning.

Chris Manfredi said it is prudent to have “side committees” after determining the expertise among the members. Gil Kahele said he intends talk with some people in South Kona, and in particular, Miloli’i.

Peter Simmons suggested that the Task Force take the time now and bare down on who is missing. It could be that we have redundancy in our group and we need to get it right from the beginning. We need to know who is not here and move forward. It is critical that we have the right people here on the Task Force.

Dan Quinn said, “Let’s figure out the scope of this mission. Staff considered the project area to begin at Miloli’i and end at the Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park boundary, east of Pāhala (the south boundary would be at Kahuku).

Mary Lou Kobayashi pointed to one of the resource maps that reflected birds, insects, vertebrates, and some coastal marine species.

Jamie Kawauchi said that in addition to the flora and fauna, the task force needs to map out the cultural sites, of which there are many. She said she would also like to have cultural practitioners as members and cautioned the task force members that they need to be respectful of the mauka lands and understand the relationship between the makai and mauka lands.

Pele Hanoa said, “We should have people from every ahupua’a”. Keola Hanoa said for those smaller ahupua’as, they can be put together and have one representative.

Dan Quinn said Congress is thinking about directing the National Park Service to do a study of the Ka’ū coast and the area covers the land from the national park boundary to Waikapuna. He further stated that “the reconnaissance study could be the first step towards preservation of the area and could go way beyond the in-house capabilities of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. This is a tremendous area and it would be good for us to define it, including the area from the coast going mauka”.

Frank Hays offered to ask the federal Superintendent for the national trails system – the Ala Kahakai, and the Superintendent of Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park to speak to the Task Force about heritage areas and to provide the task force with an update of those park units.

Several people wanted to define the project area with proposals to have the boundaries begin at Waikapuna Bay extending to about 20 miles of coastline to the National Park boundary on the Ka’ū side.

Gil Kahele proposed that the study area run from Miloli’i to the National Park.

Some suggested that the project area should include all lands up to the highway, or 5 miles up from the shoreline.

Chris Yuen said an area 5 miles from the coast inland would include the village of Pāhala and having existing towns in the shoreline study area would complicate matters.

Chris Manfredi said the task force needs to be realistic in its goals. he said archaeological and other resource studies are very expensive. “{If you set your goals too high, you are going to end up with less than you want.” A coastal area 5 miles wide is not realistic, he said.

Peter Simmons said “We are talking about makai lands, but we know mauka lands influence the health of makai lands, like erosion settlements.” He also talked about vistas and said, “We may be able to stay on track but we shouldn’t limit ourselves. Let’s go mauka when we need to and not demarcate between makai and mauka lands which could limit the effectiveness of the Task Force.

Luciano Minerbi, a member of the audience and a University of Hawai’I Professor with the Pacific Urban Studies and Planning Program, shared his vision of majestic Ka’ū with its spectacular views and vista, suggesting that the visual quality of the vista should determine the study area boundary.

Guy Enriques offered his concurrence to make the project area expand beyond the coastline. Some people expressed concern that the project area be flexible so as not to exclude any issues or events that may occur outside the area boundaries.

Chris Yuen talked briefly about the existing zoning in the project area and described the Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park as a designated wilderness area to which the federal government is committed. Using the maps provided by the Office of Planning, he pointed out the areas in gray that are zoned AG - 20a, 20 acre lots with agricultural zoning, meaning they have entitlement for subdivisions into 20 acre lots, including infrastructure, public access, and roads. The Conservation District is a strip of land along the coastline that is only 300’ to 500’ wide in many places. This zoning gets wider as you get nearer to Punalu’u and the subdivision of land becomes a more difficult land use change. Ninole Cove in Punalu’u is the only area with zoning for resort style development, like condos, hotels, restaurants, with development requiring a Special Management Area (SMA) permit from the County. Chris Yuen informed everyone of a subdivision of 49 20-acre lots located above Honu’apo that is outside the SMA and Conservation District. The land is on a grassy knoll near the lookout on the makai side of the highway. Additionally, the property where they proposed to develop a Hawaiian Riviera, was sold to an L.A. based company. If the land is to be developed further, an SMA is required even though the zoning allows for hotel, restaurants, and condominiums. Keola Hanoa said that not only will an SMA be required, a contested case hearing will be filed should plans be made for developing that area.

Chris Yuen commended the community’s effort to acquire by purchase, approximately 225 acres around Honu’apo Fishpond for public use. He pointed out that more lands are zoned Conservation in the Kahuku area, northwest of South Point (below Ocean View). He also reminded the group that the subdivision rules for areas that already have zoning for 20 acre lots entitle the landowner to develop it if the infrastructure is put in. For example, around Discovery Harbor, there is land zoned for 1 acre lots that have not been subdivided. He talked about the owners of Kahuku property who have come to his office to discuss pending applications on land surrounding Pōhue Bay.

Chris Yuen shared his concept of land ownership and what can happen. In talking about land preservation, you must include private and public lands. In his experience, the most successful strategies for land preservation are when there is a combination of both public and private acquisition and the use of creative planning tools like conservation easements, land exchanges, land use controls

and regulations. There is only so much regulation over private lands. He would like the project area to be from the highway to the sea.

Dan Quinn talked about the letter sent to Peter Young from Rep. Ed Case who asked that the Task Force send their support for having the National Park Service conduct a reconnaissance survey of the Ka'ū coastline to determine its suitability for inclusion in the National Park system. Frank Hays said that his participation on the Task Force places him in a position that can best leverage the community's and agencies' support for the conservation of the coastal areas. He would like to rely on the information contained in other reports and documents rather than do the reconnaissance survey. However, should the Task Force recommend the study be completed by the NPS, they would be pleased to do it. The survey will take about 6 months to complete, according to Frank Hays and will be in two-parts, 1) evaluation of the significance of the resources; and 2) feasibility of the area's inclusion into the National Parks system, to include community support and verification of land status among other interest areas.

Some members talked about the numerous archaeological surveys that have been completed, as well as the knowledge that the Bishop Museum is the repository of many reports conducted of the area's resources. Members said the task force is fortunate that we are able to share baseline information and to collectively develop a coastal database. One of the Task Force's projects could be putting together a bibliography of written materials available about the natural, cultural, and historic resources, including EIS's.

Keola Hanoa suggested that the University of Hawai'i through the Pacific Urban Studies and Planning Program, and under the direction of Dr. Luciano Minerbi, could provide options for the conduct of research to perform resource studies. OHA also provides funds for resource studies to 501c(3) organizations. She told the members that she does not support the inclusion of the Ka'ū coastline in the National Seashores Program under the National Park Service. "We don't want to have our native access rights encroached upon and never advocated for a national seashore. There are other entities out there that can help, like the Office of Hawaiian Affairs". She said her goal is to preserve the subsistence lifestyle that native Hawaiians practiced. She further stated that OHA is looking to give grant money to communities and making some land acquisitions and that her cause is getting this land into Hawaiian hands".

Dan Quinn said that the parks system is also working to protect native Hawaiian access and gathering rights. The Task Force could study whether the land is being effectively managed by another entity. Are the actions for preservation management at an intensive level? If so, there is no need to have it designated as part of the National Parks system, he said, noting his preference is to have a ground-up approach rather than to have the federal government come in. He said the EIS that was completed for the spaceport in Ka'ū evaluated the natural and cultural resources of the area which could be used for task force purposes, as well as other documents and reports prepared for other proposed projects located within the project area. Frank Hays said his office works with GIS information which would be helpful for the study. Dan Quinn offered to have State Parks prepare the letter from the Task Force to the National Park Service requesting them to do the reconnaissance study.

Dan Quinn told the group that both a summary of the composition of the Task Force, with meeting minutes attached would be sent to the 2006 legislature and a more in depth report of its findings submitted to the 2007 Legislature. The report will go to every lawmaker in the State and will be the building blocks for future efforts to preserve the coastal areas on the Big Island. Several members spoke of reports already prepared for certain projects and everyone was encouraged to find out about them and provide it for the larger membership. Keola Hanoa said the Task Force has a tremendous task

to accomplish and could set the example for other rural communities who strive to protect the shoreline. Dan Quinn also suggested that when the task force has more information to share with the communities and the general public, it can conduct public information meetings to obtain public input using the open house format. Keola Hanoa cautioned that the group needs a more solid foundation before we have a public information meeting. She also said that any other people and family members who should be included on the Task Force should be brought in at the next meeting.

A second meeting of the Task Force was scheduled for November 17, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. in the Pāhala Community Center. Chris Manfredi raised the issue about electing a Chairperson at this meeting. Peter Simmons agreed with Keola Hanoa that the task force needs to get more people involved before an election is held. Keola Hanoa said “The concern is not with voting for a Chairperson, it is more important to have all the communities represented. We can find people from these communities because their input is so important. It has been their community for generations”. Chris Manfredi said the people who are here have shown some level of commitment and Keola Hanoa responded by saying “You came this time, you may not come the next time. These people have been living here for generations. That’s commitment”.

Pele Hanoa graciously offered the closing pule.

In summary, the Task Force agreed to a second meeting to be held on November 17, 2005; that State Parks would write a letter encouraging the National Park Service to move ahead with the reconnaissance study of the Ka’ū Coast; additional community resource persons would be recommended for consideration as members; and that all members would start compiling a list of written materials available that contain information about the resources in the project area.

After the meeting, some members of the Task Force decided that a letter would be sent to Representative Herkes and Senator Kokubun requesting support, either in the form of funding, possibly through OHA, or clerical services to assist the Task Force in carrying out the objectives outlined in HCR 5. Such clerical services to include transcription of the meeting minutes, scheduling of meeting facilities, sending out notices and other administrative duties, as needed.